(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) No such survey has been conducted by the Government. However, as per available information with the National Crime Records Bureau, the total number of murders due to withcraft was 126 and 127 during 2000 and 2001, respectively.

(c) 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and therefore, it is the responsibility of the States to detect such cases and take remedial action.

Rejection of judicial verdict on Ayodhya dispute

4228. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Vishwa Hindu Parishad rejected any solution of Ayodhya dispute through a judicial verdict;

(b) whether it is also a fact that V.H.P. has threatened Government to face "Aar Paar Ki Ladayi (Fight to the finish)' if their demands are not met; and

(c) if so, response of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) Various individuals/organizations keep making statements according to their choice and convenience on the Ram Janma Bhoomi-Babri Masjid issue. However, Government of India have not received any thing in writing from any organization rejecting the judicial verdict. The stand of the Central Government on the issue has been very clear and unambiguous that the Ayodhya dispute can be resolved either through mutual agreement among all the parties concerned or through the verdict of the judiciary.

Fire in the slum basties on Yamuna Pushta in Delhi

4229. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fire broke out in the slum basties on the Yamuna Pushta in Delhi on 18th March, 2003;

(b) if so, the cause of the fire, the number of jhuggies gutted as a